

FREE RESOURCES

Pictures for talk in primary science

A picture can be a very good stimulus for children to engage in effective talk in science.

Using pictures is an inclusive approach that facilitates high levels of participation. Pictures can also be used as a starting point for enquiry. The discussions the children have will generate questions that they want to investigate.

Asking the children carefully chosen questions about the picture will support them with learning to:

- *construct explanations and link their ideas with evidence*
- *make confident challenges to the ideas of others*
- *explore scientific terminology and use it with genuine understanding*

Pictures for talk in science activities are designed to be very open ended and usable with any age of children. The activities can be done as a quick ten minute starter, or extended into a longer and more in-depth lesson.



WHAT TO DO

Download the image overleaf and either display on a whiteboard or give out printed copies. Ask the children to discuss, in groups of three, the following questions:

Why do you think the lemons are floating and the limes are sinking?

Other questions to generate and promote thinking and explaining

What similarities do lemons and limes have?

What might be different about them that means the lemons are floating and the limes are sinking?

What other fruits are similar to lemons and limes? What do you think would happen to slices of other similar fruits?

The children may suggest reasons such as:

- *The slices of lemon are bigger/thicker than the slices of lime*
- *The skin and/or pith on the lemons is thicker/thinner than the skin on the limes*
- *The thickness of the skin relative to the size of the whole fruit is different*
- *The composition of the skin/pith/fruit centre is different*
- *The lemons/limes have been in the water longer*
- *One of the fruits was older than the others*

The children could carry out an enquiry to test some of their explanations. They could include other oranges or other citrus fruits in their tests.

